WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Delay in Development of Indigenous LCA and Upgradation of MiG-21

*603. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE - to pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in development of indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and upgradation of MiG-21 aircraft;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to this delay the Indian Air Force has suffered a lot in air crashes and killings of pilots; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) There has been some delay in LCA Project which is mainly due to lack of development experience, non-availability of ready infrastructure, foreign exchange (FE) crunch of 1992, sanctions imposed by USA in 1998 and technological complexities. The first technology demonstrator has flow on 4th January, 2001 and successfully demonstrated to international experts during Aero India 2001. Further development is in progress for its timely induction in Indian Air Force. The upgradtion of MiG-21 aircraft was delayed due to various technical problems, integration and achieving performance parameters on two prototypes at Russia. The series upgradation and delivering to Indian Air Force has commenced at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

(b) Non-availabiiity of LCA and delay in upgradation of MiG-21 aircraft has not resulted in any way in increase of flying accidents.

(c) Does not arise.

Infiltration of Terrorists from Nepal and Bangladesh

*605. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the North-Eastern and Eastern States were recently alerted about the possible infiltration of hard core terrorists from Nepal and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the concerned State Government have beefed up security in their respective territories as per the advice of the Central Government;

(d) whether the Central Government have taken up the matter with Nepal and Bangladesh in this regard; and

(e) if so, their reaction and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI) : (a) to (e) The State Governments of North-East and West Bengal as well as Central Para-Military Forces-Special Service Bureau (SSB) personnel deployed on Indo-Nepal border and Border Security Force deployed on Indo-Bangladesh borders have been advised about effective guarding of international border areas to check the infiltration of terrorists from the neighbouring countries, including, Nepal and Bangladesh. The concerned State Governments have alerted their police authorities posted in all the border districts.

Besides, a series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the illegal cross border movement of militants. These include raising of additional battalions Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing.

The matter has been taken up with the Governments of neighbouring countries , including, Bangladesh and Nepal. They have assured that they will not allow undesirable elements to use their territory for activities prejudicial to this interests of India.

Agreement between India and China for Concerning International Silk Market

*606. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the meeting between a nine member high-level delegation from China and officials of the Union Textiles Ministry